UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly

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GENERAL

A/RES/47/136
1 March 1993

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 97 (b)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/47/678/Add.2)]

47/136. Summary or arbitrary executions

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ which guarantees the right to life, liberty and security of person,

Having regard to the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 2/ in which it is stated that every human being has the inherent right to life, that this right shall be protected by law and that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life,

Recalling its resolution 36/22 of 9 November 1981, in which it condemned the practice of summary and arbitrary executions, and its resolutions 37/182 of 17 December 1982, 38/96 of 16 December 1983, 39/110 of 14 December 1984, 40/143 of 13 December 1985, 41/144 of 4 December 1986, 42/141 of 7 December 1987, 43/151 of 8 December 1988, 44/159 of 15 December 1989 and 45/162 of 18 December 1990,

Deeply alarmed at the continued occurrence on a large scale of summary or arbitrary executions, including extra-legal executions,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/50 of 25 May 1984 and the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the

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1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

death penalty annexed thereto, which resolution was endorsed by the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in its resolution 15, 3/

Welcoming the close cooperation established between the Centre for Human Rights and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control 4/ with regard to questions relating to extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions,

Convinced of the need for appropriate action to combat and eventually eliminate the abhorrent practice of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, which represents a flagrant violation of the most fundamental right, the right to life,

1. Once again strongly condemns the large number of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions which continue to take place throughout the world;

2. Demands that the practice of summary or arbitrary executions be brought to an end;

3. Appeals urgently to Governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to take effective action to combat and eliminate summary or arbitrary executions, including extra-legal executions;

4. Reaffirms Economic and Social Council decision 1992/242 of 20 July 1992, in which the Council approved the decision of the Commission on Human Rights 5/ to appoint a special rapporteur for three years to consider questions related to summary or arbitrary executions and also approved the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to continue to provide all necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur;

5. Urges all Governments, in particular those that have consistently not responded to communications transmitted to them by the Special Rapporteur, and all others concerned to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur so that he may carry out his mandate effectively;

6. Requests the Special Rapporteur, in carrying out his mandate, to respond effectively to information that comes before him, in particular when a summary or arbitrary execution is imminent or threatened, or when such an

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3/ See Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Milan, 26 August-6 September 1985: report prepared by the Secretariat (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IV.1), chap. 1, sect. E.

4/ In its resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991, the General Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council to dissolve the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control and establish the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

5/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 2 (E/1992/22), chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1992/72.

execution has recently occurred, and, furthermore, to promote exchanges of views between Governments and those who provide reliable information to the Special Rapporteur, where the Special Rapporteur considers that such exchanges of information might be useful;

7. Welcomes the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur in his reports to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-fourth, forty-fifth, forty-sixth, forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions 5/ with a view to eliminating summary or arbitrary executions;

8. Encourages Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to organize training programmes and support projects with a view to training or educating law enforcement officers in human rights issues connected with their work, and appeals to the international community to support endeavours to that end;

9. Considers that the Special Rapporteur, in carrying out his mandate, should continue to seek and receive information from Governments, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as medical and forensic experts;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide all necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur so that he may effectively carry out his mandate;

11. Again requests the Secretary-General to continue to use his best endeavours in cases where the minimum standard of legal safeguards provided for in articles 6, 14 and 15 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights appears not to have been respected;

12. Requests the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-ninth session, on the basis of the report of the Special Rapporteur, to make recommendations concerning appropriate action to combat and eventually eliminate the abhorrent practice of summary or arbitrary executions.

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6/ E/CN.4/1988/22 and Add.1 and 2, E/CN.4/1989/25, E/CN.4/1990/22 and Corr.1 and Add.1, E/CN.4/1991/36 and E/CN.4/1992/30 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/47/678/Add.2)]

47/137. Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

The General Assembly,

Recalling that in the Charter of the United Nations the peoples of the United Nations declared their determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Recalling also the purposes and principles of the Charter to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Emphasizing the significance and validity of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1/ and of the International Covenants on Human Rights 2/ in promoting respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

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1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Recalling its resolution 32/130 of 16 December 1977, in which it decided that the approach to future work within the United Nations system with respect to human rights questions should take into account the concepts set forth in that resolution,

Noting with concern that many of the principles enunciated in resolution 32/130 have not yet been taken into consideration by the international community with all the necessary dynamism and objectivity,

Emphasizing the special importance of the purposes and principles proclaimed in the Declaration on the Right to Development, contained in the annex to its resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986,

Recalling its resolutions concerning the right to development, and also its resolution 45/155 of 18 December 1990, in which it decided that one of the objectives of the World Conference on Human Rights to be held in 1993 would be to examine the relation between development and the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights, recognizing the importance of creating the conditions whereby everyone may enjoy those rights,

Taking into account the final documents of the Tenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Jakarta from 1 to 6 September 1992, 3/

Reiterating that the right to development is an inalienable human right and that equality of development opportunities is a prerogative both of nations and of individuals within nations,

Expressing its particular concern about the progressive worsening of living conditions in the developing world and the negative impact thereof on the full enjoyment of human rights, and especially about the very serious economic situation of the African continent and the disastrous effects of the heavy burden of the external debt for the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America,

Reiterating its profound conviction that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interdependent and that equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of civil and political rights and of economic, social and cultural rights,

Deeply convinced that today more than ever, economic and social development and human rights are complementary elements leading to the same goal, that is, the maintenance of peace and justice among nations as the foundation for the ideals of freedom and well-being to which mankind aspires,

Reiterating that cooperation among all nations on the basis of respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of each State, including the right of every people to choose freely its own socio-economic and political system, is essential for the promotion of peace and development,

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3/ See A/47/675-S/24816, annex.

Convinced that the primary aim of such international cooperation must be the achievement by all human beings of a life of freedom and dignity and freedom from want,

Considering that the efforts of the developing countries for their own development should be supported by an increased flow of resources and by the adoption of appropriate and substantive measures for creating an external environment conducive to such development,

1. Reiterates its request that the Commission on Human Rights should continue its current work on overall analysis with a view to further promoting and strengthening human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the question of the programme and working methods of the Commission, and on the overall analysis of the alternative approaches and ways and means for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the provisions and ideas set forth in General Assembly resolution 32/130;

2. Affirms that a primary aim of international cooperation in the field of human rights is a life of freedom, dignity and peace for all peoples and for every human being, that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interrelated and that the promotion and protection of one category of rights should never exempt or excuse States from promoting and protecting the others;

3. Reaffirms that equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of civil and political rights and of economic, social and cultural rights;

4. Reiterates once again that the international community should accord, or continue to accord, priority to the search for solutions to mass and flagrant violations of human rights of peoples and individuals affected by situations such as those mentioned in paragraph 1 (e) of General Assembly resolution 32/130, paying due attention also to other situations of violations of human rights;

5. Considers that the issues mentioned in paragraph 4 above should be approached with due attention in the preparatory work for the World Conference on Human Rights so as to evaluate during the Conference the obstacles to achieving progress in the field of human rights;

6. Reaffirms that the right to development is an inalienable human right;

7. Reaffirms also that international peace and security are essential elements for achieving full realization of the right to development;

8. Recognizes that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interdependent;

9. Considers it necessary for all Member States to promote international cooperation on the basis of respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of each State, including the right of every people to choose freely its own socio-economic and political system, with a view to solving international economic, social and humanitarian problems;

10. Urges all States to cooperate with the Commission on Human Rights in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

11. Reaffirms once again that, in order to facilitate the full enjoyment of all human rights without diminishing personal dignity, it is necessary to promote the rights to education, work, health and proper nourishment through the adoption of measures at the national level, including those that provide for the right of workers to participate in management, as well as the adoption of measures at the international level, entailing a restructuring of existing international economic relations;

12. Decides that the approaches to future work within the United Nations system on human rights matters should take into account the content of the Declaration on the Right to Development and the need for the implementation thereof;

13. Decides to consider this question at its forty-eighth session.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/47/678/Add.2)]

47/138. Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/146 of 15 December 1989, 45/150 of 18 December 1990, and especially 46/137 of 17 December 1991, as well as the annex to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1989/51 of 7 March 1989, 1/

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General, 2/

Acknowledging the proposed guidelines on electoral assistance prepared by the Secretariat, 3/

Noting the increase in requests for electoral assistance by Member States,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. Welcomes the decision of the Secretary-General 4/ to designate a focal point for electoral verification and electoral assistance;

1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 2 (E/1989/20), chap. II, sect. A.

2/ A/47/668 and Corr.1.

3/ See A/47/668/Add.1.

4/ See A/47/668 and Corr.1, sect. II.A.

/...

3. Takes note of the decision of the Secretary-General 4/ to establish the Electoral Assistance Unit within the Secretariat;

4. Commends the electoral assistance provided to Member States at their request by the Organization, requests that such assistance continue on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the proposed guidelines on electoral assistance, recognizing that the fundamental responsibility for ensuring free and fair elections lies with Governments, and also requests the Electoral Assistance Unit to inform Member States on a regular basis about the requests received, the responses given to those requests and the nature of the assistance provided;

5. Welcomes the establishment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Trust Fund for Electoral Observation and the establishment by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme of a separate fund, the Trust Fund for Technical Assistance to Electoral Processes, and calls upon Member States to consider contributing to the Funds;

6. Stresses the importance of coordination by the focal point within the United Nations system, commends the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat for the advisory services and technical assistance it provides and the Department of Economic and Social Development of the Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme for the technical assistance they are providing to requesting Member States, and requests the focal point to continue to collaborate closely with the Centre for Human Rights as well as with the Department of Economic and Social Development and the United Nations Development Programme and inform them of requests presented in the area of electoral assistance;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Electoral Assistance Unit with adequate human and financial resources, under the regular budget of the Organization and within existing resources, to allow it to carry out its regular mandate;

8. Also requests the Secretary-General to reinforce the Centre for Human Rights through the redeployment of resources and personnel in order to enable it to answer, in close coordination with the Electoral Assistance Unit, the increasing number of requests from Member States for advisory services in the area of electoral assistance;

9. Recommends that the proposed guidelines on electoral assistance be considered as provisional, and requests the Secretary-General to evaluate the guidelines in the light of experience over the next two years;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of resolution 46/137 and the present resolution, in particular on the status of requests from Member States for electoral assistance and verification, and on the validity of the guidelines in the light of experience;

11. Decides that the question of enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections shall be biennialized as of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/47/678/Add.2)]

47/139. Situation of human rights in Cuba

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms as stated in the Charter of the United Nations and elaborated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1/ and the International Covenants on Human Rights 2/ and other applicable human rights instruments,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to fulfil the commitments they have freely undertaken under the various international instruments,

Taking particular note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/61 of 3 March 1992, 3/ in which the Commission recognized with deep appreciation the efforts of the then Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Cuba,

Noting the appointment of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on Cuba,

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1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

3/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 2 (E/1992/22), chap. II, sect. A.

Noting as well concern about ongoing reports of serious violations of human rights in Cuba, as outlined in the interim report on the situation of human rights in Cuba 4/ presented to the General Assembly by the Special Rapporteur,

Recalling the failure of the Government of Cuba to cooperate with the Commission on Human Rights with regard to its resolution 1991/68 of 6 March 1991 5/ by refusing to permit the Special Representative to visit Cuba, and noting its response, as cited in appendix I of the annex to the interim report of the Special Rapporteur, in which it expresses its decision not to "implement so much as a single comma of resolution 1992/61",

1. Commends the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights for his interim report on the situation of human rights in Cuba; 4/

2. Expresses its full support for the work of the Special Rapporteur;

3. Calls upon the Government of Cuba to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur by permitting him full and free access so that he may establish contact with the Government and the citizens of Cuba in order to fulfil the mandate entrusted to him;

4. Regrets profoundly the numerous uncontested reports of violations of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms that are described in the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General 6/ and in the interim report of the Special Rapporteur;

5. Calls upon the Government of Cuba to adopt measures proposed by the Special Rapporteur to cease the persecution and punishment of citizens for reasons related to freedom of expression and peaceful association, to permit legalization of independent groups, to respect guarantees of due process, to permit access to the prisons by national independent groups and international humanitarian agencies, to review sentences for crimes of a political nature and to cease retaliatory measures towards those seeking permission to leave the country;

6. Decides to continue its consideration of this question at its forty-eighth session.

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4/ A/47/625 and Corr.1, annex.

5/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 2 (E/1991/22), chap. II, sect. A.

6/ E/CN.4/1992/27.